



Can you find **1 Corinthians 13** again in your Bible? Last week we looked at **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**—that beautiful picture of love, what it looks like, and how it treats others. If we keep reading, the next verse (**1 Corinthians 13:8**) tells us, “Love never _____,” or your Bible might say, “Love never **fails**.”



What does that mean? What are we being told, and why? Can you turn to the book of the Bible just before that? In **Romans 12:9-14**:

Let love be _____. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing _____. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. _____ those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Okay, but what might that **look** like, to **bless** someone that is being mean to us? The New Testament gives us a couple of examples:

- ★ **Stephen**, who prayed: “Lord, do not hold this sin _____ them” (**Acts 7:60**)
- ★ **Jesus**, who prayed: “Father, _____ them, for they know not what they do.” (**Luke 23:34**)

How is it even possible to pray something like that? **Romans 12:15-21** continues to challenge us...

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome _____ with _____.

Evil is going to be overcome. Love never fails, and who knows who else might be led to God by the genuine love that shines when we follow in Jesus’ footsteps? This is why Peter encourages us, “Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable” (**1 Peter 2:12**). Our hope is that others might see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven (**Matthew 5:14-16**).

FOUNDATION STONES

We heard Mr. Jason talk a little bit about Stephen ([Acts 7](#)) and Jesus ([Luke 23](#)). I'm not Stephen and you're not Jesus, but how might we have opportunities to "bless" someone who is being mean to us?



Can you think of any examples where "evil" has been "overcome" with "good"?

Let's turn our Bibles back to [1 Corinthians 13](#) one more time and fill in the blanks left in [verse 13](#):

So now _____, _____, and _____ abide,
these three; but the greatest of these is _____.